

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 032815

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TREASURY

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO USSAGE NKP

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST BY POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 032815

COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 12 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 032815

IN REPLY TO QUESTION AT TOPEKA NEWS CONFERENCE TUES

EVENING, PRES SAID HE WAS "NOT FAMILIAR" WITH

INVITATION TO THIEU TO COME TO US IN LATE APRIL OR

WITH PROSPECTIVE VISIT. TO FOLLOW-UP QUESTION PRES

REPLIED HE "REALLY HADN'T THOUGHT" OF INVITING THIEU TO US. TO QUERY ON WHETHER AND WHY HE AND HAK STILL INSIST ON INCREASED AID TO SVN, PRES POINTED OUT THAT GVN NOW TRYING TO CARRY ON ALONE AND LAST CONGRESS AUTHORIZED 300 MILLION DOLS MORE IN MIL AID ON BASIS THAT "WOULD GIVE THEM SUFFICIENT MILITARY ASSISTANCE SO THEY COULD FIGHT AGGRESSION"; ADDED THAT HE STRONGLY BELIEVES EXTRA AID TO GIVE GVN OPPORTUNITY TO DEFEND ITSELF IS PROPER RECOMMENDATION AND HE HOPES CONGRESS WILL RESPOND. WHEN ASKED IF HE WOULD ACCEPT SOME SORT OF COMPROMISE ON MIL AID, PRES OPINED 300 MILLION IS RIGHT ANSWER TO GIVE SVN NECESSARY MIL HARDWARE; ANYTHING LESS MAKES DEFENSE LESS EFFECTIVE; QUOTED ADVISERS THAT AMOUNT IS MINIMUM FOR PURPOSE (NYT).

CSM'S HEY REPORTS ADMIN QUIETLY ORGANIZING TRIP FOR 20 MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO VN, AND PROBABLY CAMBODIA, IN APPARENT EFFORT TO GAIN APPROVAL FOR MORE MIL AID. QUOTES "SEVERAL CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES" WHO VIEW TRIP AS LAST-DITCH EFFORT WITH HIGHLY RELUCTANT CONGRESS. ADDS THAT SOURCES CONFIRM TRIP IS TO BE SEVEN TO EIGHT DAYS' DURATION, WITH PARTICIPANTS FREE TO GO WHERE THEY WISH IF IT IS SAFE. REPORTS INDICATE DEPARTURE LATE NEXT WEEK, BUT NO DATE DECIDED YET.

HEY STATES MOST CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES UNAWARE OF ADMIN PLAN FOR BIPARTISAN TRIP, BUT THOSE WHO KNOW EXPECT MAJOR EFFORT UPON ITS RETURN BY ADMIN AND SYMPATHETIC MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO WORK OUT COMPROMISE AID PACKAGE TO BOTH VN AND CAMBODIA. QUOTES "KEY SOURCE" THAT IF FEW MODERATE MEMBERS COULD BE PERSUADED IT COULD RESULT IN SENATE APPROVAL OF AT LEAST REDUCED AID - "SAY IN NEIGHBORHOOD OF 100 MILLION" EACH TO SVN AND CAMBODIA, BUT VOTE WOULD BE CLOSE. NOTES HAC DOES NOT PLAN TO HOLD HEARINGS ON EXTRA MIL AID UNTIL AFTER MARCH 15; OPINES THIS COULD CHANGE AS RESULT OF COMING TRIP. UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 032815

QUOTES SOURCES THAT THOSE "DEFINITELY ABOARD" TRIP INCLUDE SENS BROCK, CASE, LAXALT, AND CLARK; AND REPS FRASER, KEMP, AND CEDERBURG. "POSSIBLE" PARTICIPANTS ARE SENS MATHIAS, BUMPERS, SYMINGTON, AND PEARSON; AND REPS BURTON, ANDERSON, CONTE, AND MCFALL.

WP HAS LENGTHY OBIT ON THOMAS OLMSTED, PP USAID MISSION DIRECTOR WHO DIED 2/8 IN BANGKOK HOSPITAL AFTER MEDEVAC FOR PANCREATITIS.

PENTAGON SAID MAKING SEVEN MORE USAF TRANSPORT PLANES AVAILABLE TO BIRD AIR FOR AT LEAST TWO MONTHS TO DOUBLE PP FLIGHTS TO 20 DAILY. FLIGHTS ORIGINATE AT US BASE IN THAILAND (WSJ). DOD SPOKESMAN STATED EXTRA

C-130S WILL BRING TOTAL TO TWELVE US-FURNISHED PLANES FOR CIVILIAN-CONTRACTOR AIRLIFT (AP, NYDN). BIRD AIR WILL ADD 56 AIR AND GROUND CREWMEN FOR TOTAL OF 96. PENTAGON ADDED THAT 1.9 MILLION DOL COST WILL COME OUT OF CAMBODIA MIL AID APPROPRIATION (PHINQ).

SUN'S CORDDRY QUOTES DOD SPOKESMAN THAT SUPPLY SITUATION SO GRAVE EVEN WITH EXPANDED AIRLIFT GKR FORCES MAY RUN OUT OF AMMO IN WEEK OR SO UNLESS MORE SUPPLY CONVOYS CAN RUN MEKONG BLOCKADE TO PP. SAYS BIRD AIR ABOUT ONLY OPERATOR FLYING INTO PP AS COMMUNISTS PRESS DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE WITH GREATER THAN USUAL FEROCITY. QUOTES INFORMED SOURCES THAT IN VIEW OF GRAVITY OF PP SITUATION, OTHER CIVILIAN

CONTRACTORS MAY BE BROUGHT INTO SUPPLY EFFORT. ADDS THAT DOD OFFICIALS SAID ALL BUT 15 MILLION OF 275 MILLION MIL AID TO GKR SPENT OR PLACED ON ORDER; 29 MILLION DOL STOCK OF SUPPLIES ON HAND IN CAMBODIA AND ANOTHER 42 MILLION IN SUPPLY PIPELINE. NOTES EARLY-FEB ESTIMATES THAT AMMO WOULD LAST UNTIL MARCH OR APRIL, BUT SPOKESMAN SAID UNLESS MEKONG OPENED, SUPPLY COULD BE GONE BY MID-FEB.

WP'S PALLING(EXCERPTED IN GLOBE) IN BANGKOK NOTES BIRD AIR'S LONG-TIME CONNECTIONS WITH PENTAGON AS WELL AS "PERIPHERAL" CONTACTS WITH CIA. QUOTES US UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 032815

EMBASSY SPOKESMAN GARY MORELEY EARLIER THAT HE DID NOT KNOW ABOUT DOD PLANS TO INCREASE AIRLIFT, AND: "WE HAVE CONTINGENCY PLANS TO NUKE MOSCOW BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE ARE GOING TO DO IT." PALLING REVIEWS HISTORY OF AIRLIFT INTO CAMBODIA, SAYS DOD PROVIDES C-130S FREE OF CHARGE, WITH BIRD AIR PAYING SALARIES AND OPERATING EXPENSES. GIVES BACKGROUND AND CONNECTIONS OF BIRD AIR AND ITS PRES, WM BIRD, WHO DEFENDS CONTRACT TO MOVE AMMO INTO CAMBODIA IN "PERSONAL" TERMS OF NOT WANTING TO LET KHMERS DOWN.

PALLING OPINES THAT CURRENT AIRLIFT HARDLY ENOUGH TO AFFECT OUTCOME OF WAR, BUT WILL KEEP GKR FROM RUNNING OUT OF AMMO ENTIRELY. QUOTES RELIABLE BANGKOK SOURCES THAT C-130S EQUIPPED WITH FLARE GUNS TO CONFUSE HEAT-SEEKING MISSILES. CREWS ARE RETIRED USAF PERSONNEL AND RESERVISTS, WITH SOME SAID TO HAVE RESIGNED FOR POSITIONS. SAYS BIRD DENIES DIRECT ASSOCIATION WITH DOD OR CIA.

PP DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAY US HAS COMPLETED EVACUATION OF ALL EMBASSY DEPENDENTS (UPI, NYDN; WP; PHINQ).

FLIGHTS INTO AND OUT OF PP CONTINUE DANGEROUS; AT LEAST SEVEN ROCKETS HIT AIRPORT VICINITY, WOUNDING SEVEN CIVILIANS (UPI, NYDN; PHINQ). REPORTS INDICATE GKR FORCES PREPARING OPERATION TO CLEAR STRATEGIC POINTS ALONG MEKONG (CORDDRY AND AP, SUN; WP).

TET CELEBRATION BRINGS DECREASED INDOCHINA MIL ACTIVITY (PHINQ). GVN COMMAND REPORTED LOWEST LEVEL IN TWO WEEKS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY (WP). MIL ANALYSTS ANTICIPATE INCREASED ATTACKS DURING OR AFTER FOUR-DAY TET CELEBRATIONS (WP; AP, SUN). SAIGON UNUSUALLY QUIET; WITH INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT AT HIGH LEVELS AND FIGHTING CONTINUING, TET IS AUSTERE HOLIDAY FOR MANY VIETS. MANY MERCHANTS REPORT BUSINESS OFF BY MUCH AS 50-PCT (AP, SUN).

WP'S MCCOMBS IN SAIGON NOTES TET HOLIDAY MARRED BY FEAR, WITH EVEN ANTI-THIEU PEOPLE APPREHENSIVE ABOUT POSSIBILITY UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 032815

OF COALITION GOVT OR COMMUNIST VICTORY IN COMING YEAR. GIVES VIGNETTES OF UNCERTAINTY ATTITUDE SHARED BY MANY. WHATEVER HAPPENS, CIA WILL PROBABLY "BE HERE TO REPORT ON IT" SINCE AGENTS "ALL OVER VIETNAM." QUOTES "RELIABLE SOURCE" THAT BENNETT AND RAWLINGS, WHO RECENTLY DIED IN VN, WERE CIA AGENTS. TELLS OF WOMAN IN ONCE-RICH FAMILY WHO MAKES TRIPS TO VISIT SON, WHO IS VC GENERAL.

NYT REPORTS MEETING AT INTL CNTR OF PHOTOGRAPHY IN NYC TO HONOR NEWSMEN MIA IN INDOCHINA. CRONKITE TOLD OF WORK BEING DONE ON THEIR BEHALF; FRANCES FITZGERALD, SHIPLER, AND MARSH CLARK OF TIME ALSO SPOKE, WHILE SCHANBERG SENT TAPE. SLIDES AND PHOTOS OF WAR SHOWN. REUTER (FEB 11) SAYS DANA STONE'S WIFE TOLD MEETING SHE HAD ASKED PERMISSION FROM CAMBODIAN INSURGENTS TO TRAVEL INTO REBEL AREAS TO SEEK INFO ON MISSING JOURNALISTS. NOTES MOST JOURNALISTS WHO SPOKE CALLED ON US TO CUT GVN AND GKR AID, SINCE NEITHER INTERESTED IN ACHIEVING PEACE; SIGNED PETITION ASKING FOR RELEASE OF VIET NEWSMEN JAILED BY GVN.

2. CHINA

SECDEF SCHLESINGER TOLD CONGRESS TUESDAY PRC'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM ISN'T MOVING FAST AS EXPECTED, APPARENTLY DUE AT LEAST IN PART TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES. PREDICTED CHINA MIGHT BE ABLE DEPLOY LONG-RANGE MISSILES BY 1980; YEAR AGO, SAID DEPLOYMENT BY 1976 WAS POSSIBLE (WSJ).

SCHLESINGER ADDED THAT MISSILES NOT CHINA'S ONLY PROBLEM, REVEALING THAT PRODUCTION OF PRC VERSION OF

SOVIET MIG 21 FIGHTER WAS "FAILURE" AND SCRAPPED THREE YEARS AGO. ACCORDING SCHLESINGER, CHINA'S MEDIUM AND INTERMEDIATE RANGE MISSILES PROGRESSING AS EXPECTED (CHITRIB).

SOVIET DEPUTY FM ILYICHOV ARRIVED IN PEKING WEDNESDAY TO REOPEN TALKS ON SINO-SOVIET BORDER DISPUTE. PRESENCE OF VICE FM HAN NIEN-LUNG WAS FIRST INDICATION HE HAS TAKEN OVER LEADERSHIP OF CHINESE SIDE TO TALKS UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 032815

FROM YU CHAN; NO REASON HAS BEEN GIVEN FOR CHANGE (REUTER PEKING).

NCNA COMPARES FESTIVITIES OF CHINESE NEW YEAR IN PEKING WITH DECLINING CAPITALIST ECONOMY. CITES MANAGER OF LARGE GROCERY STORE IN CAPITAL WHOSE SALES WERE 12

PERCENT MORE THAN AT SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR. BOASTS THAT IN CHINA, MARKET THRIVES, PRICES STABLE, PEOPLE'S PURCHASING POWER RISING; IN CAPITALIST WORLD, PRODUCTION DECLINING, UNEMPLOYMENT GROWING, PRICES SOARING AND MARKET DEPRESSED (WP).

3. JAPAN

WP CITES TASS REPORT JAPAN HAS AGREED TO PUT UP 100 MILLION DOLS FOR JOINT EXPLORATION, DEVELOPMENT OF OIL, GAS DEPOSITS OFF COAST OF SAKALIN, IN RETURN FOR HALF OF PRODUCTION AFTER SOVIETS REPAY LOAN IN OIL AND GAS.

REUTER (TOKYO) REPORTS FUKUDA TOLD DIET WEDNESDAY IT WOULD BE "DISASTROUS" FOR JAPAN TO AGREE TO FOREIGN REQUESTS TO REFLATE ECONOMY OR REDUCE INTEREST RATES. SAID GOJ WOULD CONTINUE CURRENT RESTRICTIVE POLICIES "FOR ANOTHER YEAR OR SO," UNTIL INFLATION FULLY CURBED. FUKUDA SPOKE AS DOLLAR DROPPED EIGHT-MONTH LOW IN TOKYO EXCHANGE MART, UNDER PRESSURE OF MASSIVE BUYING OF YEN IN WAKE OF MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN JAPAN'S BOP.

4. PHILIPPINES

UPI (MANILA) NOTES MARCOS ALLEGATIONS IN SPEECH TUESDAY THAT US GIVES ONLY TOKEN ARMS AID TO QUELL MOSLEM REBELLION, DESPITE REPEATED REQUESTS, AND MOST ARMS "PAID FROM OUR OWN POCKET." SAID US CONFUSED, UNABLE TO HELP SVN, LAOS, OR PHIL; APPEALED TO INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND ARAB STATES TO HELP ARRANGE CEASEFIRE IN MOSLEM AREAS (NYDN, PHINQ).

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 032815

5. INDONESIA

ASAMERA OIL CO SAYS DEEP TEST WELL IN N SUMATRA BLEW OUT SUNDAY, NOW BURNING OUT OF CONTROL. BUT PROVES LARGE GAS DEPOSIT (WSJ CALGARY).

6. THAILAND

AP (BANGKOK) REPORTS FIRE SWEEPED THROUGH SLIPPER FACTORY, HOMES AND SHOPS MONDAY, LEAVING 300 HOMELESS. POLICE SAY DAMAGE ABOUT 1.5 MILLION DOLS (WP).

7. AUSTRALIA

MATEJA (CHITRIB) SAYS OVER 500 AUSSIES IN CHICAGO FOR CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT EXPO, LOOKING AT HOWER TOOLS TO DEVELOP OWN NATION, AND MINERALS. ALSO MAKING CONTACTS FOR LATER TRADE WITH MIDWEST. SAYS US BIGGEST SOURCE OF AUSSIE HIGH TECHNOLOGY, HEAVY EQUIPMENT IMPORTS, AND CITES GOA TRADE OFFICIAL THAT "TREND WILL RISE" IN FUTURE.

JOC (LONDON) NOTES CONCERN WITH FATE OF "GREATEST NUMBER OF BEEF CATTLE IN HISTORY" IN AUSTRALIA; CITES GOA OFFICIAL STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT THAT "NOBODY WOULD TOLERATE A SITUATION" THAT LETS CATTLE DIE FOR LACK OF DEMAND.

NYT'S STEWART IN SYDNEY REPORTS ARRIVAL OF CHARLES KELLY, SENIOR VP AT NCB, TO MANAGE NATION'S SECOND BIGGEST FINANCE CO, IAC HOLDINGS. IN PAST YEAR, NCB SHORED UP IAC WITH OVER 100 MILLION DOLS. SAYS AUSSIES NORMALLY SENSITIVE TO FOREIGN INTERVENTION, BUT QUOTES BANK OFFICIAL SAYING "ANYONE WHO CAN DO ANYTHING TO BRING ANY SEGMENT OF THE ECONOMY OUT OF ITS PRESENT DOLDRUMS IS BOUND TO BE WELCOME."

8. KOREA

REUTER (SEOUL) REPORTS FEB 12 REFERENDUM CONDUCTED "WITHOUT MAJOR HINDRANCE" DESPITE BOYCOTT CALLED BY UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 032815

OPPOSITION AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS. CENTRAL ELECTION MANAGEMENT COMM SAYS 61 PERCENT OF ELIGIBLES VOTED BY 3 P.M., ON WHETHER THEY APPROVE "THE PRESIDENT'S MAJOR POLICIES." OPPOSITION CHARGES WORDING DESIGNED TO OBSCURE CORE ISSUE.

AP (SEOUL) EARLIER REPORTED MAJORITY EXPECTED TO APPROVE, PARTLY BECAUSE ILLEGAL TO EXPLAIN WHY ANYONE SHOULD VOTE NO. CITES SOME FORECASTS OF 80 PERCENT SUPPORT FOR PARK. ELIGIBLE VOTERS NUMBER 16.7 MILLION, WITH 3.4 MILLION IN SEOUL (PHINQ, ABRIDGED IN SUN).

GLOBE'S STORIN IN SEOUL BELIEVES REFERENDUM WILL GIVE PARK NEW MANDATE, BUT SEES REAL ISSUE WHETHER HE WINS "HONESTLY" AND USES EXPECTED TRIUMPH TO RESUME "STRONG-ARM TACTICS" AGAINST OPPONENTS. NOTES PARK GENERALLY ARRANGED ELECTION TO OWN ADVANTAGE, BUT DID ALLOW "RELATIVELY UNCONTROLLED" PRESS REPORTS OF OPPOSITION BOYCOTT CAMPAIGN. CITES SOME OBSERVERS WHO SAY PARK BENEFITS FROM BROADENING REFERENDUM

QUESTION BEYOND YUSHIN CONSTITUTION, TO ASK WHETHER VOTERS APPROVE "MAJOR POLICIES" INCLUDING ECONOMIC PROGRAM.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

9. INDOCHINA

THIMMESCH (SUN), REVIEWING DOS' DENIAL OF COLSON STATEMENT THAT HAK WAS EAGER TO BOMB HANOI IN DEC 1972, HOLDS THAT "AGAIN, WE ARE TREATED TO MR. KISSINGER'S MARVELOUS AMBIGUITY." SAYS, "NATURALLY," HAK "IS FURIOUS OVER THIS"; AND, "OF COURSE," AS DOS STATES, RECORD DOES NOT SUPPORT COLSON'S STATEMENT. POINTS OUT HAK WAS NSC DIRECTOR, NOT SECSTATE, AT TIME, AND THAT EASIEST WAY TO ASCERTAIN VERACITY OF COLSON'S REMARKS IS FOR PRES TO PRODUCE TAPES AND RECORDS OF NIXON-HAK CONVERSATIONS AND CABLES.

ACCORDING THIMMESCH, THREE OTHER SENIOR ADMIN OFFICIALS, UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 032815

ALL PRIVY TO DATA ON BOMBING, HAVE CONFIRMED ESSENTIALLY WHAT COLSON SAID -- THAT HAK WAS ANGRY AT LE DUC THO FOR DECEIVING HIM; THAT HE URGED NIXON RESUME BOMBING, BUT WITH B-52S; AND THAT HAK URGED NIXON GO ON NATIONAL TV TO EXPLAIN IT ALL TO US PUBLIC. "I DON'T THINK IN HIS HEART-OF-HEARTS," HAK WOULD DENY ANY OF THIS; MOREOVER, "RECORD WILL SUBSTANTIATE IT."

S-N'S MCGRORY CITES CHARLES COLSON'S INTIMATION THAT CONTRARY TO GENERAL NOTION THAT HAK CURBED NIXON ADMIN ON VN, IT WAS OTHER WAY AROUND, PARTICULARLY DURING CHRISTMAS 1972 BOMBING, "RECKONED BY MANY AS THE MOST BRUTAL FOLLY OF THE NIXON YEARS" AND SUPPOSEDLY DEPLORED BY KISSINGER -- "SECRETLY, OF COURSE."

MCGRORY SAYS HAK MAY HAVE CONSOLED HIMSELF THAT FEW PEOPLE BELIEVE COLSON; BUT "THERE IS ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY THAT (COLSON'S CHARGES) MIGHT BE TRUE, AT LEAST IN PART, AND LATELY LESS THAN SLAVISH JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN UNCOVERING KISSINGER'S ADVOCACY OF THE CHRISTMAS BOMBING" (FEB 11).

CDN (2/5) SEES THIEU MAINTAINING "DEMOCRACY-AS-USUAL" WHILE ASKING US FOR MORE MIL AID. NOTES THIS FIRST TIME IN THREE YEARS GVN HAS CRACKED DOWN ON PRESS.

SAYS GUESS IS THIEU GETTING THINGS IN HAND IN ANTICIPATION OF UNREST OVER TET; HE HAS ALWAYS PERMITTED EXACTLY AS MUCH FREEDOM AS SUITED HIS POLITICAL PURPOSES. RECOMMENDS CONGRESS BEAR IN MIND HOW LITTLE THINGS CHANGE IN SVN, OR ARE LIKELY TO, HOWEVER MANY DOLLARS PUT IN THIEU'S HANDS.

PHINQ BELIEVES SEN HUGH SCOTT MISSES POINT IN SAYING HE MAY NOT SUPPORT PRES' REQUEST FOR SVN MIL AID UNLESS REDUCED TO 200 MILLION. NOTES MANY MEMBERS OF GVN NATL LEGISLATURE DEMANDING THIEU BE REPLACED AND SAYING THAT MORE MIL AID CAN ONLY BOLSTER "THIEU'S GRINDINGLY OPPRESSIVE AUTOCRACY." SAYS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HOPE FOR PEACE, CONCILIATION AND DEMOCRACY IF EXTRA MIL AID WITHHELD, BUT SAFE TO PREDICT "MORE OF THE SAME" IF MONEY GIVEN. ASKS WHEN, AFTER UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 10 STATE 032815

DECADE OF BLOODY AND POINTLESS INVOLVEMENT, WILL UU AND SCOTT LEARN LESSON OF ITS FOLLY?

EVANS/NOVAK (PHINQ) NOTE CONGRESS HAS HAK "FEELING BLUE." RECALL PRES' FEB 3 BREAKFAST FOR CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS WHEN SECSTATE PAINTED FRIGHTENING PICTURE THAT INCLUDED IMMINENT COLLAPSE OF SVN AND CAMBODIA IF EXECUTIVE BRANCH UNDERCUT BY CONGRESS. SOME CONGRESSMEN FELT HAK, "CONSUMMATE ACTOR," WAS PUTTING IT ON BIT THICK IN BID FOR SUPPORT. SAY BREAKFAST STARTED ON "APPARENTLY HOPELESS" PRES REQUEST FOR 300 MILLION IN EXTRA MIL AID; LATER, SECSTATE CONTENTED TURKISH AID CUTOFF ENDANGERS RELATIONS WITH CHINA BECAUSE PEKING "WONDERS HOW IT CAN DEAL WITH A NATION IRRATIONAL ENOUGH TO CONSCIOUSLY ALIENATE AN ALLY SO VALUABLE AS TURKEY." EVANS/NOVAK BELIEVE CONGRESS INTENT ON FORGING OWN WAY INTERNATIONALLY WITHOUT REGARD TO OLD-FASHIONED BIPARTISANSHIP, SO FOREIGN POLICY IS INCREASINGLY SUBJECT TO CONSTITUENT PRESSURES. NOTE NO SIGNIFICANT BLOCS OF VOTERS TO LOBBY FOR SEVERAL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING CAMBODIA AND SVN.

10. JAPAN

NYT'S HALLORAN IN TOKYO (2/11) FINDS WATERGATE TRAUMA NOW PURGING US POLITICAL LIFE HAS LITTLE IMPACT ABROAD, EXCEPT IN JAPAN, WHERE ONE MAG WAS IMPELLED BY AMERICAN EXAMPLE TO INVESTIGATE TANAKA FINANCES. RESULTING EXPOSE PRECIPITATED LDP "UPHEAVAL" AND LED TO TANAKA'S OUSTER. SURPRISE COMPROMISE SUCCESSOR MIKI TRIED TO ENHANCE REPUTATION BY DISCLOSING ASSETS ON TAKING OFFICE, BUT WATERGATE INFLUENCE STOPPED THERE, AS MIKI DID

NOT INSIST OTHER SENIOR LDP POLITICS DO SAME, AND NONE DID.

ALSO, DESPITE MIKI'S OFT-QUOTED HRAISE FOR ATTITUDE THAT "RESCUED AMERICAN DEMOCRACY," HIS CALL FOR LDP REFORM SEEMS TO HAVE FALLEN ON DEAF EARS. AND JAPANESE PRESS "WHICH NEVER HAD MUCH OF AN INVESTIGATIVE UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 11 STATE 032815

TRADITION" IS NOT LOOKING FOR OTHER WRONGS TO EXPOSE. PERHAPS, HALLORAN COMMENTS, LACK OF "WATERGATE SYNDROME" ELSEWHERE ILLUMINATES DECLINE OF AMERICAN INFLUENCE ABROAD -- AS MUCH AS WEAKENING OF DOLLAR AND WITHDRAWAL OF US FORCES.

11. KOREA

SANG DAL CHA (PRES, KOREANS FOR FREEDOM, LIVING IN LA) DECLARES IN LAT (2/9) REFERENDUM THAT SOUNDS "DEMOCRATIC" TO MOST AMERICANS, IS ONLY "ANOTHER DEVICE" TO PERPEPTUATE PARK'S REPRESSIVE RULE. QUOTES KIM YOUNG SAM CALLING IT "PARK'S FOURTH COUP D'ETAT" DURING BRIEF VISIT TO LA LAST MONTH, WHEN HE WARNED PARK WILL MEET SAME FATE AS SYNGMAN RHEE, IF HE DOES NOT "CHANGE CONSTITUTION AND GRACEFULLY RETIRE," BECAUSE "PEOPLE HAVE REACHED POINT OF ERUPTION." SANG HOPES US PEOPLE, GOVT CORRECTLY READ FORCES OF KOREAN HISTORY, AND HELP THOSE STRIVING FOR DEMOCRACY, LIKE KIM YOUNG SAM.

REP LLOYD MEEDS (WASH) IN LAT (2/9) STATES MANY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FEAR CONTINUED AID TO ROK MAY IDENTIFY US WITH PARK REGIME'S REPRESSIVE POLICIES. THEIR CONCERN "CAN ONLY BE HEIGHTENED" BY PARK'S PREPARATIONS TO STAGE REFERENDUM WHICH RECENT EVENTS DEMONSTRATE "WILL BE CONDUCTED NO MORE DEMOCRATICALLY" THAN PREVIOUS ONE.

DECLARES AMERICANS CARE WHAT HAPPENS IN SK BECAUSE US FOUGHT WAR TO DEFEND NATION, AND HAVE HELPED IT SURVIVE SINCE 1953 ARMISTICE. BUT REGRETS "SPECTACLE

OF AMERICAN TANKS SURROUNDING PARLIAMENT DURING DEMONSTRATIONS" DOES NOT ENDEAR US TO VERY KOREANS WHOSE FREEDOM OF CHOICE WE SACRIFICED SO MUCH TO PROTECT. MEEDS RECALLS WARNING RECEIVED AS MEMBER OF CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SK IN APRIL LAST YEAR THAT MIL AID VIEWED BY SOUTH KOREANS AS US ENDORSEMENT OF PARK AND HIS POLICIES, AND EMBASSY OFFICIAL EXPLANATION THAT PRESENCE OF CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 12 STATE 032815

ITSELF CONSTRUED AS SUCH SUPPORT. POINTS OUT HOUSE SUBSEQUENTLY ADOPTED FRASER AMENDMENT, LIMITING ROK MIL AID TO 145 MILLION DOLS THIS YEAR UNTIL PRES CERTIFIES "SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS" TOWARD ASSURING INT'L STANDARD OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SK -- WHICH HE YET UNABLE TO DO.

CITES REISCHAUER THAT PARK "FORCED THROUGH" YUSHIN CONSTITUTION "WHICH REDUCED ALL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS TO A SHAM"; ALSO GREGORY HENDERSON THAT IT'S "ONE OF THE MOST ILLIBERAL AND AUTHORITARIAN INSTRUMENTS... IN ANNALS OF CONSTITUTIONALISM," INCLUDING THOSE OF COMMUNIST STATES AGAINST WHOM US AND OTHER UN MEMBERS DEFENDED ROK.

DEPLORES EMERGENCY MEASURES, WHICH MAKE IT ILLEGAL TO "DEFAME" CONSTITUTION, OR PETITION FOR ITS REPEAL OR REVISION, ARREST AND TORTURE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. DISMISSES PARK SYMPATHIZERS' CLAIM THAT STRONG MEASURES NEEDED TO MEET THREAT OF INVASION, SUBVERSION BY NK; CITES INFORMED SOURCES THAT SK MAYBE 50-75 PERCENT STRONGER THAN NK, BACKED UP BY 38,000 US TROOPS. WITHOUT MINIMIZING POSSIBLE DANGER, FINDS IT HARD TO BELIEVE NK PREPARING TO INVADE SK, WHERE US DEMONSTRATES RESOLVE TO MEET OVERT AGGRESSION. OBSERVES SKOREANS WELL AWARE OF NKOREAN ACTIONS DURING 1950 INVASION, AND HARDLY LIKELY TO SUPPORT SUBVERSION. IN FACT, MEEDS GOT MESSAGE IN SK LAST YEAR THAT SKOREANS HATE COMMUNISM, AND APPRECIATE OWN ECONOMIC SUCCESS.

DECLARES WE MUST CRY "STOP." RECOMMENDS AGAINST IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS, OR ABANDONMENT OF ECON AID COMMITMENT, BUT ARGUES WE CAN NOT ALLOW MIL AID USE TO CHOKE OFF DISSENT WITHIN SYSTEM "WE ALL RECOGNIZE IS FUNDAMENTALLY WRONG." URGES WE MAKE CLEAR AID TO BE USED FOR, NOT AGAINST, SKOREAN PEOPLE; IF WE DEMONSTRATE DANGER OF COURSE BEING TAKEN BY PARK REGIME, THERE "MAY YET BE TIME TO AVERT EVEN MORE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES" -- IF NOT, US MUST TOTALLY DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM DISASTROUS RESULT BECAUSE,

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 13 STATE 032815

IN WORDS OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATOR IN 1972, "SO LONG AS AMERICA SUPPORTS THE DICTATORIAL REGIME IN OUR LAND, OUR PEOPLE ARE BOUND TO BECOME ANTI-AMERICAN."

WP'S OBERDORFER (FEB 9) REVIEWS CASE OF WOO HUNG SUNG,

SENTENCED TO DEATH BY MILITARY COURT ON CHARGE OF PLOTTING "MOST SERIOUS HIGH TREASON" IN ROK HISTORY. STATES COMMUNIST MANIPULATION CHARGE IS "BACKBONE" OF JUSTIFICATION FOR HARSH MEASURES PARK REGIME TAKES AGAINST DOMESTIC OPPOSITION AND CITES LENGTHY STUDY BY DEPORTEE REV OGLE THAT "RED" LABEL PINNED ON WOO AND OTHER DISSIDENTS TO DISCREDIT OPPOSITION TO MARTIAL LAW REGIME.

ACCORDING OGLE, PARK USED SIMILAR TECHNIQUE AGAINST OPPONENTS OF ROK-JAPAN NORMALIZATION IN 1964, WHEN WOUNDED WAR VET WOO FIRST ARRESTED AS LEADER OF "PEOPLES' REVOLUTIONARY PARTY." PROSECUTORS DECLINED PRESENT WEAK CASE, BUT WOO AND SOME OTHERS TRIED ON LESSER CHARGES, ACQUITTED, LATER CONVICTED IN RETRIAL AND GIVEN LIGHT SENTENCES.

OBERDORFER CASTS DOUBT ON CREDIBILITY OF EVIDENCE AGAINST WOO, ESPECIALLY ALLEGATION HIS AM-FM SHORT-WAVE RADIO -- ON SALE COMMERCIALY -- LINKED HIM TO NK. CITES REPORTS OF KCIA TORTURE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND INTIMIDATION TO PREVENT THEIR WIVES FROM JOINING PUBLIC PROTESTS AGAINST PARK REGIME. PUTS ROKG CHARGES IN CONTEXT BY NOTING OTHER KOREANS CONVICTED OF ALLEGED LINKS WITH PRP INCLUDE SK'S ONLY LIVING EX-PRES, RC BISHOP, PROTESTANT MISSIONARIES, AND LEADING POET.

CSM DECLARES PARK TRYING ENGINEER BETTER RESULT IN REFERENDUM WITH CAMPAIGN "TO MUZZLE PRESS" AND DISSENT. NOTES THAT IN LATEST TACTIC PARK PRESSURED MAJOR ADVERTISERS TO CANCEL ADS IN DONG-A ILBO, BUT "QUITE REMARKABLY" PRIVATE CITIZENS PLACED SYMPATHY ADS IN SUCH NUMBERS PAPER CAN SURVIVE ON THEM, AND INCREASE IN CIRCULATION GREETED GOVT AD UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 14 STATE 032815

CAMPAIGN.

PERHAPS TO COUNTER LOSSES EVIDENT IN UPSWING OF SUPPORT FOR PRESS FREEDOM GENERATED BY ATTACK ON DONG-A ILBO, PARK DID LET PAPERS PRINT STATEMENTS

BY KIM DAE JUNG AND KIM YOUNG SAM. BUT OBSERVES
ATTACKS ON PRESS MUST BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE IN LONG
RUN, AND NOTES ROKG RECENTLY PRAISED DONG-A
ILBO FOR RESISTING CENSORSHIP DURING 35-YEAR JAPANESE
OCCUPATION.

OBSERVES ANY GOVT THAT PURPORTS TO BE DEMOCRACY WHILE
IMPOSING MARTIAL LAW MUST BE CONFUSED OVER PRIORITY

OF BASIC RIGHTS, BUT SUPPORTERS OF DONG-A ILBO
SHOW "COURAGEOUSLY" THAT NOT ALL SKOREANS CONFUSED
ABOUT PREREQUISITES FOR DEMOCRACY.

12. PACIFIC ISLANDS

LAT'S LAMB IN RAROTONGA (2/9) DESCRIBES MASS EXODUS
OF S PACIFIC YOUTH TO NZ, AUSTRALIA, CANADA, US, FOR
"MORE EXCITEMENT, AMENITIES AND MONEY." SAYS ONLY
28,000 SAMOANS REMAIN IN ISLANDS, WITH 60,000
ALREADY IN US, AND MORE COMING -- QUOTES PAGO PAGO
HS PRES, SAYING 'THERE IS NOTHING HERE FOR US BUT
COCONUTS. ALL MY FRIENDS PLAN TO LEAVE."

13. INDONESIA

LAT 2/9) CALLS INDONESIA'S FOREMOST NEWSMAN MOCHTAR
LUBIS "DANGEROUS MAN" TO ANY REGIME IN POWER.
JAILED TEN YEARS FOR "SUBVERSION" BY SUKARNO AND
RELEASED IN ONE OF SUHARTO'S FIRST ACTS, LUBIS NOW
BACK IN JAIL ON SIMILAR CHARGE. PROBLEM IS LUBIS
DOESN'T KNOW WHEN TO TELL TRUTH - DISCREETLY.
SUHARTO GOVT MIGHT TOLERATE SMALL DOSES OF TRUTH,
BUT FEARS TO LET HIM CORRUPT NATION'S YOUTH BY
POINTING OUT ITS MISTAKES IN PRINT. SO LAT ADDS
LUBIS' NAME TO INT'L ARISTOCRACY OF BRAVE, WHO
DEFEND FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE AT WHATEVER COST.
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PAGE 15 STATE 032815

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
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MOSCOW
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